Health hazards in asbestos mining

*200.DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI KRISHANLAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted a study on the effect on the health of labourers engaged in asbestos mining;

(b) if so, whether this study has made any suggestions;

(c) whether the study group has suggested doing away with the restrictions on asbestos mining;

(d) whether Government proposes to implement them;

(e) whether Government would lift the ban on new leases for asbestos mining and their renewal; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Study recommended imposition of safeguards on pollution level in work environment and other remedial measures subject to which the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted.

(d) to (f) Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. At present the ban on mining of asbestos has not been lifted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Private investment in food processing

1395.SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken initiative to attract private investment, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), to strengthen cold chain infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of private investors and foreign companies that have shown their interest in investment;

(d) the States where Government plans to spend their money; and

(e) the chunk out of the investment Government is considering to spend in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) In order to strengthen the cold chain infrastructure in the country, one of the thrust areas for discussions with various private / foreign investors has been on the possibilities of development of cold chain infrastructure in the country by attracting private investment including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Although MFPI has not received any proposal from foreign companies for investment in development of cold chain infrastructure so far, Ministry has received several proposals from private investors for setting up of cold chain facilities in the country.

(d) and (e) To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public / private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The